

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A method of removing a polyp from a surface comprising:
manipulating a conductive hook around the polyp;
engaging the polyp with said conductive hook; and
severing the polyp from said surface by discharging electrical energy from said conductive hook into the polyp.
2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34 wherein engaging the polyp comprises retracting said conductive hook about the polyp until said conductive hook engages a stem of the polyp.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein retracting said conductive hook about the polyp comprises retracting at least a portion of said conductive hook into a sheath.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34 wherein severing the polyp includes cauterizing the polyp and the surface.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34 further comprising retracting at least a portion of said conductive hook into a sheath after severing the polyp from the surface.
6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein retracting at least a portion of said conductive hook into said sheath comprises encasing said conductive hook with said sheath.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein retracting at least a portion of said conductive hook into said sheath comprises inserting a tip of said conductive hook into an opening in said sheath.
8. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the polyp is removed from an inner lining of an internal cavity.
9. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein removing the severed polyp from the internal cavity comprises applying suction to the severed polyp.
10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34 including removing the polyp from a colon.
11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34 wherein said hook is movable relative to a terminal end of a sheath, and wherein the procedure for removing the polyp includes extending said hook from the terminal end of said sheath such that an open space exists between a terminal end of said hook and the terminal end of said sheath; and passing the polyp through the opening between the terminal end of said hook and the terminal end of said sheath.
12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein after the polyp has been passed between the opening between the terminal end of said hook and the terminal end of said sheath, moving said hook towards the terminal end of said sheath and engaging the polyp with said hook as said hook moves towards the terminal end of said sheath.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising retracting said hook with respect to said sheath such that the terminal end of said hook is inserted into an opening formed in said sheath.

14. (Canceled)

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33. (Canceled)

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 including maintaining the conductive hook in a generally constant hook shape while manipulating the hook, engaging the polyp with the hook, and severing the poly from the surface.

35. (New) The method of claim 1 including inserting the conductive hook into the colon of a patient wherein there is at least one polyp in the colon; and contacting the polyp with the conductive hook and conducting electrical energy into the polyp and simultaneously strangling and severing the polyp with the conductive hook.

36. (New) The method of claim 35 including retracting at least a portion of the conductive hook within a sheath during the method of removing the polyp.